

MISCELLANEOUS. No. 7 (1917).

URTHER CORRESPONDENCE

WITH THE

UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR

RESPECTING

THE TREATMENT OF BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR AND INTERNED CIVILIANS IN GERMANY.

[In continuation of "Miscellaneous, No. 26 (1916)": Cd. 8297.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty. March 1917.

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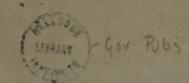


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Further Correspondence with the United States Ambassador respecting the Treatment of British Prisoners of War and Interned Civilians in Germany.

[In continuation of "Miscellaneous, No. 26 (1916)": Cd. 8297.]

No. 1.

United States Chargé d'Affaires to Viscount Grey.—(Received September 11.)

THE American Chargé d'Affaires presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a despatch he has received from the Ambassador at Berlin, dated the 26th ultimo, enclosing copies of reports on the camps for officer prisoners of war at Fürstenberg i/Mecklenburg and Burg b/Magdeburg.

American Embassy, London, September 8, 1916.

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Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Mr. Gerard to United States Chargé d'Affaires.

Sir, United States Embassy, Berlin, August 26, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of reports, dated the 22nd and 25th instant, of visits made by Mr. Jackson to the camps for officer prisoners of war at Fürstenberg i/Mecklenburg and Burg b/Magdeburg.

I have, &c.
JAMES W. GERARD.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

Report on Visit to Detention Camp at Fürstenberg i/Mecklenburg.

THIS camp was visited by me on the 30th December, 1915.* The general conditions have remained practically as they were at that time, and as the camp is at present by no means full the officer prisoners of war are comparatively comfortable. The relations between the British prisoners and the German officers are cordial, and the camp authorities are evidently inclined to do all that is possible to add to the comfort of the prisoners. All the British prisoners had been transferred to Burg early in July (see my report dated the 11th July), but thirty of them had been sent back here four weeks later—in time for them to profit by the vegetables which they had left growing in their individual garden patches. I was allowed to talk privately and freely with these officers, and all were glad to be back at Fürstenberg. None made any complaint in regard to local conditions. Some thought it unfair that they had been called upon to pay for the transportation of their personal luggage to and from Burg, in view of the fact that the transfer to that place was not made at their request. My visit had not been announced in advance.

Owing to the fact that the British orderlies had been sent away at the same time that the officers left for Burg, their number was at present insufficient, but more are expected to arrive in a few days. Some delay in the receipt of parcels and mail had been occasioned by the double transfer, but this will rectify itself in a short time, and parcels have already arrived from Burg. The officers said that at Burg the food

provided was unsatisfactory, and that in consequence a number of them had written to request that a greater quantity should be sent to them from home. At Burg, where there are a large number of young Russian officers, the price paid for meals had been reduced, and the quantity of food furnished had decreased in proportion. I understand that this action was taken to meet the wishes of the Russians.

At Fürstenberg the officers are permitted to take frequent walks in the surrounding country, and several trips on the canals and lakes have been taken in a motor-boat. Those who wish to do so may swim in the lake every morning. A lawn tennis court has been constructed outside the camp which the officer prisoners are allowed to use throughout the day on parole, and a second court is under construction.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

August 22, 1916.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1.

Report on Visit to Detention Camp at Burg b/Magdeburg.

ON the 23rd instant I visited Burg, at the request of the Prussian Ministry of War, in company with officers from the Ministry and a delegate from the Spanish Embassy. At Burg we were met by the camp authorities and the Inspector-General of the IVth Army Corps from Magdeburg, and together we spent more than eight hours in the camp (in regard to which I have made several reports, the last of which was dated the 11th July, 1916), making a thorough inspection of it. In the camp there are at present nearly 900 officer prisoners of war of different nationalities, of whom less than thirty are British. In this camp the relations between the camp authorities and the prisoners have never been cordial (see my reports of the 31st March, 1915,* and subsequent reports), and the discipline has always been particularly strict. Many material improvements have been made, but the general atmosphere of the camp has never seemed to me to be exactly as it should be. It does not appear to be necessary for me to express an opinion as to the reason for this state of affairs beyond saying that I think all parties share the blame.

On the 24th July a number of Russian officers had been caught in a tunnel which they had built with a view to an attempt to escape, and in connection with their arrest certain incidents occurred which resulted in the calling out of armed guards. Fortunately order was restored without bloodshed, but since that time the camp has been in a permanent state of unrest. So far as I am aware, none of the British officers were involved in the affair (except as witnesses), but a number of them had been apprehensive that there might be a revolt, in the dangers of which they would necessarily participate. The matter is now in the hands of the judicial authorities, and a report in regard to it will be made as soon as their proceedings are closed.

On the 23rd instant, in our presence, a thorough investigation of the general conditions in the camp was made by the senior officer of the Ministry of War, when groups of prisoners belonging to the different nationalities (including all the British

On the 23rd instant, in our presence, a thorough investigation of the general conditions in the camp was made by the senior officer of the Ministry of War, when groups of prisoners belonging to the different nationalities (including all the British officers) were enabled to state their complaints and wishes freely, and I have been given to understand that after the judicial proceedings have ended a number of changes are to be made which will conduce greatly to the comfort and contentment of the officer prisoners. Measures have already been taken to initiate some of the desired changes and to expedite the judicial proceedings.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

August 25, 1916.

* See "Miscellaneous, No. 11 (1915)," No. 2.

No. 2.

Viscount Grey to United States Chargé d'Affaires.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Chargé d'Affaires, and has the honour to request that his best thanks may be conveyed to Mr. Jackson for his reports on the camps for officer prisoners of war at Fürstenberg and Burg, copies of which accompanied Mr. Laughlin's note of the 8th September.

Foreign Office, September 15, 1916.

No. 3.

United States Chargé d'Affaires to Viscount Grey.—(Received September 18.)

THE American Chargé d'Affaires presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a despatch he has received from the Ambassador at Berlin, dated the 31st ultimo, transmitting a copy of a report of a visit made to the working camp at Bokelah b/Bremervörde on 30th August last.

American Embassy London, September 15, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 3.

Mr. Gerard to United States Chargé d'Affaires.

American Embassy, Berlin, August 31, 1916. I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a report of a visit made by Mr. Jackson to the working camp at Bokelah b'Bremervörde on 30th August, 1916, and to be, &c.

JAMES W. GERARD.

Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

Report on Visit to Detention Camp at Bokelah b/Bremervörde.

THIS working camp was opened in the winter of 1914-15, but no British prisoners of war were sent to it until February 1916. When visited to-day it contained about 900 prisoners, of whom ninety-eight are British, who are on the books of several different principal camps. The location is attractive, in the moors, but the place is apt to be very damp. The quarters and general facilities resemble those found in other working camps, and the general living conditions are practically the same for both the prisoners and their German guards. The British soldiers depend to a great extent upon their parcels, which seem to arrive regularly, as they, as usual, do not like the food provided by the authorities. My visit had been announced a few hours in advance in order to obtain transportation from the railway station, and, as most of my time was spent in talking with the men, I made no thorough inspection. Before my visit there had been no English interpreter, the services of a British soldier who had picked up a little German having been availed of, and a number of misunderstandings had arisen. There was found to be a German soldier, however, who speaks English fluently and understands it, and he is to be used in the future. The British in this camp had never made any attempt to communicate with the American Embassy, and the existence of the camp itself had only been learned a few days ago. The soldiers had also shown very little energy in attempting to make their wishes and complaints known to the commandant. During my visit I talked freely with many of the men and reported what they said to me to the commandant, who readily consented to have them make their wishes known to him in the future through the German soldier mentioned above, and who took steps at once to investigate complaints which were made in regard to the conduct of some of the guards. The prisoners are employed at present in cutting and loading heather, and the work cannot be described as hard, although in some cases the hours have been long when the men ha

JOHN B. JACKSON.

August 30, 1916.

No. 4.

Viscount Grey to United States Chargé d'Affaires.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to request that an expression of his thanks may [236]

be conveyed to the United States Ambassador at Berlin and to Mr. J. B. Jackson for the report on the conditions prevailing in the working camp at Bokelah b/Bremervörde, of which Mr. Laughlin was good enough to forward a copy for the information of His Majesty Government in his note of the 15th instant.

Foreign Office, September 21, 1916.

No. 5.

United States Chargé d'Affaires to Viscount Grey.—(Received September 29.)

THE American Chargé d'Affaires presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a despatch he has received from the Ambassador at Berlin, dated the 20th instant, concerning Mr. Gerard's and Mr. Lithgow Osborne's visit to the British officers detained at Fort Zorndorf, near Cüstrin.

American Embassy, London, September 28, 1916.

Enclosure in No. 5.

Mr. Gerard to United States Chargé d'Affaires.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on Tuesday, the 12th September, I visited, together with Mr. Lithgow Osborne, Third Secretary of Embassy, the British officers detained at Fort Zorndorf, near Cüstrin. During the inspection Generalmajor von Brozowski, the commandant of the fortress of Cüstrin, and Oberleutnants Lukoschat and Weiss, who have charge of Fort Zorndorf, accompanied us. At the time of our visit there were eight British officers detained in the fort, where were also a larger number of French and Russians.

Most, if not all, of the officers in Fort Zorndorf have been sent there as a result of attempted escapes from other officers' camps in Germany. This was true of all the British. The régime is more strict, and escape is more easily prevented than in an

ordinary camp.

Fort Zorndorf lies on rising ground about 2 miles east of Cüstrin, and is a brick and earthwork fortification dating, I should say, from the middle of the last century. The officer prisoners are housed in one of the casements. There is no common mess hall, and they eat their meals in their rooms. The British officers are in two different rooms, three of them sharing, in one case, a room with two Frenchmen. The fixtures for the rooms were similar to those in officers' camps in Germany. The light coming from only one side, i.e., from the courtyard of the fort, made all the rooms rather dark. Freedom of movement is restricted, as the courtyard within the casement is narrow, and beyond this the officers are permitted to go only on ramparts of the fort to which a causeway leads. Here they have a space varying from 10 to 30 yards in width, and following round the line of the fort for a distance of perhaps 300 to 400 yards, covered with grass. Canvas shelters have been recently erected at various points along it; there is also a place to play skittles, and I noticed that jumping standards had been set up at another. The British officers informed me that they kept in training by running round the path along the ramparts.

The main complaint of the British officers was that some of them had been detained for such a length of time at Fort Zorndorf. Generalmajor von Brozowski told me, on the way to the fort, that, according to a recent regulation, four months was the longest that any officer was to be held there. The length of time which the British

officers had been in Fort Zorndorf varied from 7 months to 2 days.

Another source of complaint was that the sentence of detention passed upon certain of the officers, subsequent to their attempted escapes, and previous to their removal to Cüstrin, had been exceeded. Thus one officer stated that he had been sentenced to 10 days' arrest, but had actually spent 5 weeks in prison; another had been sentenced to 1 week, and had been 13 days in prison; another had been sentenced to 2 months, and had been imprisoned over 9 weeks; while the arrest sentences of 3 officers (who had all been concerned in the same attempted escape from the camp at Fürstenberg) had been exceeded by 2 days. The officers further stated that they had been recently informed by the authorities that, owing to an incompleted

tunnel which had lately been discovered, there would be no releases from Fort Zorndorf for some time in the future.

Beyond the complaints on the above score, they complained of the food, and of the restricted space for movement, and of the generally stricter régime existing in the camp. Parcels, they stated, came regularly, and mail also; but they complained that letters addressed to the Embassy by two of them had been returned with information

from the Ministry of War that their delivery could not be permitted.

The camp authorities agreed to give an additional room to the British, also to allow the purchase of fruit and green vegetables. It was further agreed not to compel the officers to pay for food if they gave notice ten days before the 1st of each month that they desired to live on their parcels from home and not take the regular camp food, which the British officers had stated was totally insufficient.

I have the honour to add that, in accordance with a request of the officers at Fort Zorndorf, I have forwarded the sum of 400 M. from the British military fund to the commandant at Cüstrin to be used in the building of a tennis court for the use of the prisoners.

the prisoners. I have, &c.

JAMES W. GERARD.

to side the rid of the camp outside of No. 6. To shirten outs out to pir seri bewolls

United States Chargé d'Affaires to Viscount Grey.—(Received September 30.)

THE American Chargé d'Affaires presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a despatch he has received from the Ambassador at Berlin, dated the 19th instant, enclosing a copy of a report on the internment camp for British and other civilians at Havelberg.

American Embassy, London, September 28, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

Mr. Gerard to United States Chargé d'Affaires.

American Embassy, Berlin, September 19, 1916. I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a report on a visit made by Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel, a member of this Embassy, to the internment camp for British and other civilians at Havelberg on 14th September, 1916.

I have, &c.
JAMES W. GERARD.

Enclosure 2 in No. 6.

Mr. Dresel to Mr. Gerard.

Berlin, September 17, 1916. I HAVE the honour to submit to you the following report of a visit of inspection made to the internment camp for British and other civilians at Havelberg on the 14th September, 1916. This camp had not been previously visited by the Embassy. On the present occasion the visit was made entirely without previous announcement, and ample opportunity was given to speak to the men in private:

Numbers.—The total number of civilians in the two large divisions of the camp, which adjoin each other and are known as Nos. 2 and 4, is 4,500, including Russians, French, and men of other nationalities, and some 60 women, mostly Russians. There are no military prisoners, and no white men or women of British nationality. 372 men from British India, all, with a few exceptions, taken from steamers of the Hansa Line, are quartered in camp or division No. 4, which was the only one visited, and

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which contains 1,938 civilians in all. Of those, all but some six or seven Christians are Mahommedans. Eight have been in camp for nearly a year, but the great majority

only for a period of two to three weeks.

Description of Camp.—Division No. 4 is an ample enclosure, situated on a level, sandy place, with little or no shade. There are several compounds for prisoners of different nationalities and one for women, on different sides of an open space containing the kitchens, laundry, bathhouse, disinfecting establishment, and administration

buildings.

Barracks.—The quarters where the Indians are detained consist of a large wooden barrack of recent construction, measuring approximately 250 by 50 feet in size, and about 25 feet in height. This is separated into three divisions, the first of which, about 50 by 30 feet in size, contains sixteen interpreters and men of better education than the majority. These sleep in two tiers of wooden frames, furnished with straw sacks, the bedding being in good condition. The other two divisions, each 100 feet long by 50 feet wide, contain 206 and 150 prisoners respectively. In these the prisoners sleep in three tiers with sufficient and clean bedding. The ventilation is excellent, and the light is sufficient, there being eight windows in each of the large dormitories. Each of the larger divisions contains two large brick stoves, which are ample for heating purposes, and the smaller division has one such stove. Adjoining the barrack, along its whole length, is an open space some 100 feet wide, in the centre of which is a hearth used for open-air cooking. The men in the small dormitory are allowed free run of the camp outside of the compound from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M., the others by special permission only for particular purposes, such as exercise, bathing, and attendance at the theatre.

Clothing.—This is inadequate for the winter, and measures will be taken to supply the prisoners with the same outfits, including shoes, as are provided at Ruhleben.

Packages and Letters have arrived regularly, if not frequently, for the eight men who have been in camp for some months. Packages have not yet been delivered for those who have recently arrived.

Latrine.—The latrine used by the Indian prisoners, on the trench system, is adequate and entirely clean and inoffensive. Sufficient provision is made for disin-

fection and for removal of the refuse at regular intervals.

Baths.—There are twelve showers in a specially constructed bathhouse of sufficient size, and the supply of hot and cold water and the heating arrangements are ample. There are also two tubs for invalids. The Indians have the opportunity to bathe twice a week in the bathhouse, and also generally make daily ablutions within their compound.

Washing.—A modern laundry with all the necessary machinery is sufficient to

wash for 1,500 men daily, and the work is done gratuitously.

Kitchen.—The Indians do their own cooking, both in the open air and in their barracks, obtaining the raw food in bulk from the kitchen. Mutton cannot generally be supplied to them, though it was stated that it was expected that this could be done occasionally, and they are therefore restricted to a vegetarian diet. The Indian prisoners had no complaints regarding the food, which was said to be sufficient in quality and quantity. The kitchen, containing twelve cauldrons, is modern in its appointments. The soup was tried and found palatable.

Canteen.—At the canteen sardines, marmalade, cocoa, cider, white wine (at stated intervals), malt beer, lemonade, tobacco, and various toilet articles were for sale. Indians buy much lemonade, but few other articles. Every month, vendors from a

market in town visit the camp, and purchases are allowed.

Exercise.—There is a football field in the camp, but the Indians take little or no exercise.

Theatre in division 2 was not visited.

Work.—The Indians have not yet been required to do any kind of work.

Religious Services are conducted by the men themselves.

The Hospital, situated about a quarter of a mile from the camp, contained five Indians at the time of the visit, of whom one was insane, and was shortly to be transferred to an asylum. The other cases were not very serious. The accommodations are good, and the wards well ventilated. There has been little illness among the Indians.

Complaints.—Besides requests for a weekly allowance and for supplies of clothes, there were no complaints or wishes. The commandant stated that there had been no trouble of any kind with the Indians, and that no punishment had been inflicted on

any since they had been in camp.

Comment.—This camp produces an excellent impression, the arrangements being

unusually hygienic and modern. The facilities for exercise, education, and recreation are not nearly so fully developed as at Ruhleben, or some military camps, but otherwise the conditions are favourable. The commandant and staff of officers are efficient and considerate.

I have, &c.
ELLIS LORING DRESEL.

No. 7.

Viscount Grey to United States Chargé d'Affaires.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Chargé d'Affaires, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Laughlin's note of the 28th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a despatch from the United States Ambassador at Berlin, relative to the conditions prevailing at Fort Zorndorf, to which place his Excellency was good enough to pay a personal visit on the 12th ultimo.

Viscount Grey will be much obliged if the expression of his thanks can be conveyed to Mr. Gerard for the information thus furnished to His Majesty's Government.

Foreign Office, October 4, 1916.

No. 8.

Viscount Grey to United States Chargé d'Affaires.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Chargé d'Affaires, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Laughlin's note of the 28th ultimo, transmitting copies of a report prepared by Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel, in regard to the conditions prevailing in the civilian internment camp at Havelberg.

ment camp at Havelberg.

Viscount Grey will be much obliged if the expression of his cordial thanks can be conveyed to the United States Ambassador at Berlin and to Mr. Dresel, for the information furnished to His Majesty's Government in this report.

Foreign Office, October 5, 1916.

No. 9.

United States Chargé d'Affaires to Viscount Grey.—(Received October 13.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, dated the 29th ultimo, enclosing a copy of a report on the camp for prisoners of war at Parchim.

American Embassy, London, October 12, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 9.

Mr. Grew to United States Chargé d'Affaires.

Sir,

American Embassy, Berlin, September 29, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a report of a visit made by Drs. A. E. Taylor and J. P. Webster to the camp for prisoners of war at Parchim on the 25th instant.

I have, &c. J. C. GREW.

Enclosure 2 in No. 9.

Drs. Taylor and Webster to Mr. Grew.

September 26, 1916.

WE have the honour to submit to you a report of a visit of inspection made by us on the 25th September, 1916, at the camp at Parchim, where British prisoners of war are detained.

Number of Prisoners of War.—This camp has 46,000 prisoners on its books, and there are in all 1,960 prisoners of war in the camp proper, of whom 40 are British. 39,000 of the prisoners of war from this camp are employed at agricultural work, and 5,000 at industrial work. Of the prisoners in working camps there are 490 British, and 130 of these are at the camp at Wasbeck.

Previous Inspection.—This camp was visited by Mr. Jackson on the 9th June,

1915,* and by Drs. Taylor and McCarthy on the 12th May, 1916.†

Description of Camp.—As this camp has been described before it will be

unnecessary to make a more detailed report.

Barracks.—The barracks are the same as when inspected by Drs. Taylor and McCarthy, with the exception that 4,000 bunks have recently been ordered and made, and we saw these being carried in at the time of our visit.

Clothes.—All the prisoners had sufficient clothing, underclothing, and shoes.

Latrines, Baths, and Washing Facilities.—There has been no material change in

this regard since the last visit of inspection.

Kitchen.—There are at present three main kitchens, one for Russians, one for Jews, and one for the French, Serbians, and British. In the latter kitchen French prisoners of war were employed. The menu for the day, which was written on a blackboard, was as follows:-

Breakfast: Coffee and milk.
Dinner: Potatoes, smoked beef, carrots, meat extract.

Supper: Consomme, potatoes.

We tasted some of the midday meal, which was being prepared at the time, and found it to be very palatable and nutritious. Later the prisoners were seen passing out from the kitchen with bowls about 8 inches in diameter nearly filled with this food. On questioning the British it was stated that all of the men took the midday meal. They also stated that the food had improved considerably since the visit of Drs. Taylor and McCarthy in May. There is a large bakery where the camp bread is prepared, the ration being 300 grammes per day. The bread now contains no potato. The menu for the week, as determined by the Kriegsministerium, is appended to this report.

Medical Attention.—There were no British in the camp lazaret. This camp has a

remarkable record of never having had a death among the British.

A British prisoner, who was walking about with a cane, stated that he had undergone two operations for appendicitis. He said that the physicians advised him to have a third operation performed, but that he had refused. He stated that the wound was healed over, but that he had "lumps" underneath the surface, which suggested to us induration of the wound.

Packages.—It was stated by the men that the packages arrived in good condition

and regularly.

Mail.—Recently the letters had been arriving irregularly.

Complaints.—The British were lined up for inspection, and an opportunity given to register complaints. We were allowed to speak to the prisoners freely, and without

ear or eye witnesses.

Complaints were made of the delay in arrival of letters. It was stated that this had occurred only recently, and was synchronous with the installation of a new interpreter in the censoring department. The men regarded him as being very slack in his work. This was taken up with the commandant, and he promised immediate investigation of the matter and definite correction. Some of the men who were included under the class 4 list (the classification being formed in regard to health and ability to work about camp) stated that being in this class they should be exempt from fatigue work, but that on the morning of our visit they had been ordered to

^{*} See "Miscellaneous, No. 15 (1915)," No. 13. † See "Miscellaneous, No. 26 (1916)," No. 27.

perform this work. When this matter was taken up with the commandant he stated that this was undoubtedly an error, and that it would immediately be rectified.

Remarks.—It was stated that one prisoner had been found to be temporarily mentally unbalanced, and had been sent to the camp lazaret four weeks before our visit. He had later been transferred to the camp at Sachsenberg, where it was heard that he had been improving.

The prisoners were told of the proposed new arrangement for packages, whereby one committee was to handle all packages, and they were given a chance to make suggestions as to the contents. The prisoners wished to have a cake of soap included,

and the Scotchmen desired a tin of fish each week.

It was stated that there were a sufficient number of footballs in the camp, but they would like to have football shoes of mixed sizes, and eleven thin jerseys of one colour and eleven of another, together with football knickers.

The four civilians, of whom mention was made in the report of Drs. Taylor and

McCarthy, are still at this camp, and prefer to remain here.

Our visit to the camp was unannounced.

We believe that especial commendation should be given to the commandant, Oberst Kothe, for the spirit in which he governs the camp, and for the way in which he does everything in his power for the welfare of the prisoners, and for the promotion of a cordial relationship between the men and those in charge.

We have, &c.

A. E. TAYLOR. JEROME PIERCE WEBSTER.

Enclosure 3 in No. 9.

CALCULATION of Prisoners' Food from September 24 to September 30, 1916.

n = Noon.

m = Morning.

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	Foolstuffs.	300 gr. bread "" 5" " confee substitute "" 150" " salted fish 600" potatoes 10" margarine 5" " meat extract 5" " onions 10" " nutritive yeast 5" potato flour 10" potato flour 10" potato flour 5" potato flour 150 potatoes	Total

SUMMARY.

Total Composition.

	Albumen.	Fat.	Carbo-hydrate.	Calories.	Cost in Prennigs.
Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Total	92·7 59·2 99·6 47·1 56·6 99·2 74·8	26 · 7 21 · 3 23 · 6 15 · 8 22 · 1 14 47 · 7	319·7 442·4 326·6 426·1 366·6 331·3 363·6	1,973 · 2 1,884 · 1 2,007 · 3 2,063 · 6 1,945 · 4 2,001 · 6 2,260 · 9	30 2 44 57·5 47·3 42 34·1 45·6
Average for one day General expenses and cost of spicing daily food	75·6	24.5	368.4	2,019·4	320·7 45·8 5
Total	••	The state of the s			50.8

No. 10.

Mr. Page to Viscount Grey.—(Received October 13.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, dated the 3rd instant, enclosing copies of reports on the camps at Brandenburg, Frankfort-on-the-Oder, Cottbus (Sielow), and Cottbus (Merzdorf).

American Embassy, London, October 12, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 10.

Mr. Grew to United States Chargé d'Affaires.

Sir, American Embassy, Berlin, October 3, 1916. I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of reports of visits made by Mr. Jackson to British prisoners of war at Brandenburg on the 21st September, at Frankfort-on-the-Oder on the 22nd September, at Cottbus (Sielow) on the 26th September, and Cottbus (Merzdorf) on the 2nd October.
I have, &c.

J. C. GREW,

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure 2 in No. 10.

Report on Visit to Detention Camp at Brandenburg.

THIS camp was visited on the 19th June, 1916, by the Ambassador and Dr. Ohnesorg, and not long thereafter all the British prisoners who were present at that time were transferred to another camp.* Other British prisoners of war, taken from merchant ships or patrol boats, have been in the camp, but with one exception all of these men have been sent elsewhere. The one in question is in the lazaret with a case of dysentery. He made no complaint in regard to his treatment.

When visited by me this morning, there were in the camp about 100 British sailors, survivors from the North Sea battle, who had been transferred from

Dülmen in August. These men, with the exception of two who were in the lazaret (rheumatism and an abscess on the lip), occupy one end of a large barrack, the rest of which is partially filled with French and Russian prisoners. The bunks are in two tiers and close together. The lighting of the barracks was poor, but it was promised that this would be rectified. Separating the British prisoners from those of other nationalities is an open space, in which there are tables, and, when asked, the men said that there were tables enough. The part of the building occupied by the British prisoners was not so clean as the remainder, but for this the men themselves are

responsible. My visit to the camp had not been announced in advance. I was left alone with the British prisoners, and permitted to talk with them freely. Apparently there are no petty officers among them, but one man, who is recognised as the senior, claims to have been acting as chief engineer at the time of his capture. After his capture this man described himself as a "seaman," but he said that he had now written home for papers to establish his naval rating. All the naval sailors are in touch with their homes, and have received mail and parcels without undue delay. One British sailor works in the post-office bureau. Some complaint was made of the bread sent from Bedford, which had recently arrived in a mouldy condition. The bread from Switzerland was said to arrive in good shape. As usual, these men subsist to a great extent on what is sent them from home, but when I visited the camp I found a number of them eating the customary midday soup-potatoes, cabbage, and sausage-which, while not particularly tasty, appeared to contain a good deal of nourishment.

During the two hours I spent with the prisoners I heard no important complaint, although there had been some misunderstandings which I tried to explain, and several of their wishes were communicated to the camp authorities. The men do not appear to have made any special effort to make their wishes known. Some of the men expressed a wish to have a better interpreter, but when I talked with the man provided \vec{I} found that he could speak English with considerable fluency, and he said that he had little difficulty in understanding the men. At least one of the officers on duty in the camp speaks English also.

Some of the men complained that it was difficult to get proper medical treatment, but this was contradicted by the men whom I saw in the lazaret, one of whom said that, if a man had been caught trying to "swing the lid," it was only natural that he should find it difficult to get on the sick list, even if something were really the matter with him.

Most of the British prisoners are employed in factories in the neighbourhood at which munitions are made. The men complained of this, and some of them had refused to work. It was frankly admitted by the camp authorities that munitions were made in these factories, but it was stated that the prisoners are not brought into direct contact with the munitions themselves, and upon enquiry I was unable to learn of any case to the contrary.

Some of the men complained of the hours of work, but admitted that they were no

longer than those of the German labourers.

No men were in the cells at the time of my visit.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

September 21, 1916.

Enclosure 3 in No. 10.

Report on Visit to Detention Camp at Frankfort-on-the-Oder.

THERE were no British or Serbian prisoners of war in this camp when I visited it to-day, and consequently I made no inspection.

Certain British seamen had been interned here for a few days in July, but had soon been sent elsewhere, and there had been no other British prisoners in the camp, as I was told, at any other time.

At the Reserve Lazaret I, I was told that there were no British prisoners in the

several lazarets in Frankfort.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

September 22, 1916.

Enclosure 4 in No. 10.

Report on Visit to Detention Camp at Cottbus (Sielow).

THIS camp was visited by Dr. Ohnesorg on the 23rd March, 1916.* When visited by Mr. Herter and myself to-day it contained 121 British prisoners of war, and we were told that there are about fifty more on its books, who are employed at working camps, principally coal-pits, in the Seitenburg district. The British occupy the same quarters as heretofore, a small room having been built for two sergeant-majors, while the six senior company sergeant-majors and a cook still have a room for themselves in another barrack. The senior sergeant-major accompanied us during our visit to the men, with whom we were allowed to talk freely, out of hearing of any German. Our visit had not been announced in advance. The men made no complaints of importance. Most of them had been captured early in the war. Their mail and parcels appear to arrive regularly, with few exceptions, and in the censor's room we saw letters posted in England as late as the 14th instant which were about to be distributed. The men said that much of the bread which had been received during the summer, both from England and from Switzerland, had arrived in a mouldy condition. The attention of the camp authorities was called to certain hearsay complaints respecting conditions in some of the working camps, and we were told that these would be investigated at once. The theatrical performances are suspended at present. Non-commissioned officers of all nationalities who have not volunteered for work are exercised during about five hours, under their own superiors, every day, and they are prohibited from participation in various privileges. The relations between the prisoners of war and the camp authorities appear to be good. A building, to be used as a church and reading-room, which has just been erected by the American Young Men's Christian Association is to be dedicated on the 29th September. The men generally appeared to be in good health and spirits, and few of them made any criticism of local conditions.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

September 26, 1916.

Enclosure 5 in No. 10.

Report on Visit to Detention Camp at Cottbus (Merzdorf).

THIS camp was visited by Dr. Ohnesorg on the 23rd March, 1916,* but at that time there were no British prisoners of war in it except the few who were in the lazaret. To-day there were eleven British in the hospital, some of whom were wounded sailors—from the North Sea battle—who had been transferred from Wilhelmshaven, while the others were soldiers who had come from the Sielow camp or working parties with temporary ailments. I talked with all of these men, and none of them made any complaint. They said that the food was good and their treatment excellent. The

In the camp proper there were about 150 British prisoners, most of whom were sailors, either from the North Sea battle or men who had been taken since. In this camp the blocks are arranged on a radial system, with a guard tower in the centre of the semicircle. The ground is very sandy, and the barrack floors are below the ground level. The men sleep on a raised platform running round the sides of the building, in the middle of which there are chairs and tables. The buildings are dry and well heated. They are lighted by electricity, which is extinguished at 9 P.M. As the latrines were said by the men to be satisfactory, I made no inspection of them. I tasted the midday soup, and found it very good—thick and nutritious. My visit to the camp had been announced in advance (it being necessary to obtain transportation from the railway station), and I was accompanied by the commandant and his adjutant, as well as by the interpreter, whose presence did not, however, seem to embarrass the prisoners in any way, as none of them showed any hesitation in making their wishes known. The men were in good spirits, and their relations with the camp authorities were obviously good. Although all had an opportunity to speak to me, none made any complaint. I did not allow them to tell me of the circumstances connected with their capture. Although these men are in a military camp, their exact position is not clear, and none of them (the sailors) had been called upon to work as yet. The men are in three

separate groups, which are theoretically not permitted to communicate with each other.

There were no British undergoing punishment.

In the first group there are only three men, engineers from the "Pendennis," who occupy a hut by themselves. These men have beds and are comfortably housed. One of them, who is an Englishman by birth, claims to be an American citizen through service some years ago in the United States army, but he has no papers, and he admitted that he had never been naturalised. These men asked for permission to take walks outside the camp, and the commandant said that this would be arranged.

In the second group were the officers and men of the "Horus," who had been at Brandenburg, and members of the crews of the "Onward," the "Nellie Hutton," and the "Era" (patrol boat No. 408). The cook of the "Horus" said that he was 68 years of age. The older men have been supplied with three blankets each, and some of the others expressed a wish (which was noted by the commandant) to have an equal number. The men had said that, although their hut was well heated by day, they let the fire go out at night, and wanted more bed covering. These men asked for permission to play football with those in the third group, but the commandant said that he was not at liberty to allow this, although he would permit them to play by themselves in the open space in the centre of the camp.

In group 3 there are a considerable number of naval petty officers (from the North Sea battle) who had come from Dülmen, as well as the officers and men of the "Aero," members of the crew "Au Fait," and a few soldiers who had come from the Sielow camp. Quarters apart from the men are provided for the officers, as well as for certain of the navy men, including two warrant officers (torpedo gunners) of H.M.S. "Nomad," who claim that they should be sent to an officers' camp, as they had heard from home that a part of their pay had been stopped as they were supposed to be receiving it from the German authorities. Several of the naval men have been

designated for transfer to Switzerland.

All the men, with the exception of the few who were captured lately, are in touch with their friends in England and have received letters and parcels. In some cases there had been delay in the receipt of mail owing to the fact that the men had been in several camps, but this is rectifying itself. The men said that some of the bread which came from Switzerland, and more which was sent from England, arrived in a mouldy condition, and that as the mouldiness seemed to start in the middle of the loaf they thought this was due to the quality of the bread itself or the manner in which it was packed.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

October 2, 1916.

No. 11.

Mr. Page to Viscount Grey.—(Received October 18.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, dated the 7th instant, enclosing copies of reports regarding the camp for officer prisoners of war at Kronach, Bavaria, and that for inactive officers at Celle.

American Embassy, London, October 17, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 11.

Mr. Grew to United States Chargé d'Affaires.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of reports of visits to the camp for officer prisoners of war at Kronach, Bavaria, and that for inactive officers at Celle, on the 4th and 6th instant respectively.

I have, &c.
J. C. GREW,

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure 2 in No. 11.

Report on Visit to Detention Camp at Kronach, Bavaria.

THE camp for officer prisoners of war in the "Veste Rosenberg," at Kronach, Bavaria, was visited by Dr. Ohnesorg and Mr. Osborne in October 1915, and by

Mr. Dresel on the 24th February, 1916.*

To-day there were about ninety officer prisoners in the camp, of whom twenty-one are British (including Canadians). The senior British officer has devised various schemes to give each of his juniors certain duties which will give him a daily occupation. Lawn tennis is practically compulsory for those who are in condition to play. Several officers have taken up gardening. There are opportunities for bowling, both indoors and out. Of late the British officers (the only ones who enjoy the privilege at present) have been enabled to take frequent walks in the neighbouring country, a privilege which is greatly enjoyed. Owing to the construction of the fortress and to the fact that only a small part of it is reserved for the prisoners, the recreation space is limited, and one soon tires of the usual round—about a third of a mile in length. A request for an extension of the exercise grounds, and one for permission for the British officers to use a football field in the valley below the fortress under parole, are under consideration.

Since the 1st September the British officers have made arrangements to subsist themselves, and special cooking appliances have been installed. They are freed from all compulsory mess charges, but pay voluntarily 6 M. per month for bread and such extra amount as may be necessary to enable their officer servants (of whom there are four at present) to obtain food which is more to their taste. These four men said that their food is good, and with the exception of one, who has proved unsatisfactory and will soon be sent elsewhere, they are contented with their present duty. The British officers do not use the general "refectory," except for the morning "Appell," but eat in their own rooms. The rooms accommodate from three to six officers, according to size. The different nationalities are not separated entirely, but to this no objection

was made.

Weekly religious services are conducted by one of the British officers, and Archdeacon Nies, rector of the American church at Munich, visits the camp about once a month. There are many musical instruments in the camp, and both English and French libraries. In addition to the refectory, there is a room for purposes of general recreation. The bathing facilities are satisfactory, each officer being able to have a warm bath (fixed porcelain tubs) once in nine days and to use the douches freely. During the warm weather the British officers had been permitted to use the open-air town swimming bath, under parole. The building is now lighted with gas.

I spent about four hours in the camp in unrestricted intercourse with the prisoners, lunching alone in his room with the senior British officer, whose bread—from Winter's, Birmingham—was particularly good. I was told that much of the bread, which had come from Bedford or from Switzerland, during the summer had been mouldy. Generally the officers were cheerful and appeared to be in good health. Some, who had recently come from Ingolstadt, felt depressed by the walls of the fortress. The Canadians would like to be sent to a place where there are more of their own officers. One officer would like to be sent to Blankenburg, where his cousin is interned. The relations between the officer prisoners and the commandant, his assistant, and the interpreter are good, and the commandant appears to be disposed to do all that can reasonably be expected of him to add to the comfort of the prisoners.

An objectionable feature of the camp, which unfortunately it seems impossible to change, is the presence in the court-yard on which the prisoners' windows give of two covered cesspools, from which the odour is frequently unpleasant. The general sanitary fittings are primitive (the building was constructed in the sixteenth century), and the odours are disagreeable. Some anxiety is felt by the officer prisoners on this account, but as yet there has been no evidence that there has been any detrimental effect on the general health of men who have been here for more than a year. On being spoken to of this matter, the commandant said that he would have greater efforts made to have the closets and urinals kept clean, and would provide for a greater use of disinfectants.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

October 4, 1916.

^{*} See "Miscellaneous, No. 19 (1915)," No. 38, and "Miscellaneous, No. 16 (1916)," No. 79 [236]

Enclosure 3 in No. 11.

Report on Visit to Detention Camp at Celle.

THE "Schloss" at Celle was visited by Mr. Russell and myself on the 13th April, 1915, by the Ambassador and Mr. Osborne in October of the same year, and by Drs. Taylor and McCarthy in July 1916. When visited by me to-day I found no material changes, except that the bathing facilities had been and were being still further increased. In accordance with their request, and at their own expense, the interned British officers had been permitted to have partitions put up in the top floor of the building, and to make a number of small but comfortable and well-lighted rooms for their use. These new rooms had necessarily made the passages rather dark, and a complaint had reached the commandant in regard to this, and as a result he had threatened to have the partitions removed. For the present, however, no decision has been made, and the British officers remain in the rooms in question. At present

the British officers practically subsist themselves.

When visited to-day the camp contained about fifteen British subjects (including one Canadian, two Indians, and the Master of the British steamship "Goldmouth" most of whom have been here since early in the war. I spent nearly two hours with the officers, unaccompanied by any German. My visit had not been announced in advance. Most of these gentlemen felt the effects of their long internment, but generally they seemed to be in as good health and spirits as could be expected. One was absent (at Kissingen, I believe) on leave, and several others have been permitted to make visits to their families in Germany. A request from another, who had obtained no benefit from his stay at Bad Blenhorst, for permission to go somewhere for a "cure" is under consideration. No important complaints were made, although there was some comment on the severity of the discipline (several of the interned but none of the British—had been under arrest at different times), but this was explained by the commandant as necessary in order to prevent attempts to escape and to avoid the danger of fire. The complaint, already noted in connection with reports of other camps, in regard to the rate of exchange on remittances by post, was made by several of the interned, who were told that respecting this the Embassy was unable to take action, as it was already the subject of negotiation between the two Governments concerned.

Twelve British soldiers have been brought from the camp at Soltau to act (among others) as servants. I was told by the British officers that these men are being well treated, and that he did not consider it necessary for me to inspect their quarters, and

as my time was limited I did not do so.

The Scheuen (Cellelager) camp for prisoners of war has now been abolished.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

October 6, 1916.

No. 12.

Viscount Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his Excellency's note of the 12th instant, enclosing copies of reports prepared by Mr. J. B. Jackson in regard to the conditions prevailing in the prisoners of war internment camps at Brandenburg, Frankfort-on-Oder, Cottbus (Sielow), and Cottbus (Merzdorf). Viscount Grey will be much obliged if the expression of his cordial thanks can be

conveyed to the United States Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin and to Mr. Jackson for the

information furnished to His Majesty's Government in these reports.

Foreign Office, October 21, 1916.

No. 13.

Viscount Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Page's note of the 17th instant, enclosing copies of reports by Mr. Jackson on the prisoners of war camps at Kronach, Bavaria, and at Celle.

Viscount Grey would be much obliged if his thanks could be conveyed to Mr. Jackson for the trouble which he has taken in compiling these reports.

The condition of the sanitary arrangements at Kronach seems to justify anxiety, and Lord Grey hopes that everything possible will be done to improve it and remove a possible cause of infection.

Foreign Office, October 24, 1916.

No. 14.

Mr. Page to Viscount Grey.—(Received October 30.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, dated the 19th instant, referring to the report by Captain Draudt on camps in which British prisoners of war are interned in occupied Russian territory (Kurland), transmitted to Lord Grey on the 24th August last, and enclosing a copy of Mr. Jackson's report on his visit to Libau.

American Embassy, London, October 30, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 14.

Mr. Grew to Mr. Page.

American Embassy, Berlin, October 19, 1916. Sir.

WITH reference to Mr. Gerard's letter of the 10th August, enclosing a copy of Captain Draudt's report of his inspection of camps in which British prisoners of war are interned in occupied Russian territory (Kurland), as well as to the desire of the British Government as repeatedly expressed, to have these prisoners visited by a representative of the Embassy, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a report made by Mr. Jackson of his visit to Libau on the 16th and 17th instant.

For military reasons permission was not given to Mr. Jackson to go further into Russian territory, and so it was impossible for him to see the British prisoners at and near Mitau and Hazenpot, but he was assured that these men are at a safe distance from the firing-line, and that they work in connection with railroad building. In Mr. Jackson's opinion the conditions under which the men live and work at Libau are decidedly better than those in the average working camp in Germany. While in Libau Mr. Jackson had an opportunity to visit the camp for Russian prisoners of war, and to see that there is no difference in the treatment of these men and of the British.

I have, &c. J. C. GREW, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure 2 in No. 14.

Report on Visit to Detention Camp at Libau (occupied Russian territory).

THIS camp was fully described by Captain Draudt, of the Prussian Ministry of War, in the report, of which a copy was sent to London on the 10th August, 1916. It contains at present about 500 British prisoners of war, most of whom are employed in unloading merchant vessels at the docks, and in putting their cargoes in warehouses or on railway trains. These men work in shifts, being called on to do a certain amount of work in the afternoon and in the forenoon of the following day, and then being off duty for the next twenty-four hours. The others are employed daily at work not connected with munitions.

Several men who had been found to be unfit for work have already been sent back to Germany, and a few others have been designated for return as soon as a

favourable opportunity presents itself.

My visit to the camp took place on the 16th instant. It had been arranged for in advance by the Ministry of War, and I was accompanied by Captain Draudt, who was greeted by the Englishmen as an old friend. These men said that various improvements had taken place after the captain's visit in July. They had duly received the football which had been sent to them by the Embassy at his instance, and had greatly enjoyed the privilege of swimming in a small arm of the Baltic Sea during the summer. Shower baths, for the winter, have now been constructed in the main barrack. In the camp I talked, in the presence of the German interpreter (who speaks English fluently), with the four sergeant-majors with all the men designated by them as wishing to speak to me, and with many of the others. The men described the commandant as a "gentleman," and said that they had no difficulty in communicating with him in regard to their wishes. None had any complaint to make of their treatment, and only very few speke of the work as hard. When I saw the men at work on the morning of the 17th, unloading sacks of flour from a steamer, their activity showed clearly that they were not being overworked. There were no men in the "Revier-Stube" when I visited it, and the general health of the men seemed excellent. The large room in which they sleep is well aired, lighted by electricity, and heated by large brick ovens, which have been installed recently. They are to be given wood fibre mattresses and a third blanket in November. Three sergeant-majors now share their room, one having moved—at his own wish—to quarters nearer the kitchen, of which he is in charge. The mid-day meal (rice and plums) was being served at the time of my visit, and I found it good. A considerable number of the prisoners partook of it, although all subsist to a great extent on what is sent them from home. Opportunities are provided for them to cook their own food. Much of the bread which comes from Switzerland and England arrives in a mouldy condition, and must be thrown away, but a kind of "Zwieback" which has recently been sent keeps well, and is liked.

I communicated several of the men's personal wishes and unimportant complaints to the German authorities, who promised to consider them. Several men said that they would like to have clothing which had been left behind at Döberitz, Friedrichsfeld, and Münster, and this—I understand—will be done if the men will consent to have that clothing altered in such a way as to prevent its being easily transformed into civilian clothing. The men of the East Kent Regiment asked particularly that uniform be sent them from England. There is a large stock of clothing in the camp, which is given to those who need it, but the men prefer their own uniforms. Parcels and mail are received (through Friedrichsfeld) without more delay than must be

anticipated under existing conditions.

At the time of my visit there were no men in the arrest cells, and relatively few have been there—for disciplinary offences, or for stealing from the ships or warehouses (food, &c.)

(food, &c.)

These men have not been visited by any British or English speaking chaplain, but they hold services amongst themselves, prayer books having been provided by certain English ladies resident in Libau.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

October 17, 1916.

No. 15.

Mr. Page to Viscount Grey .- (Received November 7.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, dated the 24th ultimo, enclosing a copy of a report of a visit made by Dr. J. P. Webster and Mr. Guy

Ayrault to the prisoners of war camp at Güstrow, together with a copy of a letter from the commandant at Güstrow to Dr. Webster in regard to matters which were brought up for adjustment.

American Embassy, London, November 6, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 15.

Mr. Grew to Mr. Page.

Sir. American Embassy, Berlin, October 24, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a report of a visit made by Dr. J. P. Webster and Mr. Guy Ayrault to the camp for prisoners of war at Güstrow on the 17th instant, and also copies of a letter from the commandant at Güstrow to Dr. Webster in regard to matters which were brought up for adjustment.

It should be stated that two footballs and two pairs of boxing-gloves have already been sent by this Embassy to the English ranking non-commissioned officer at this

This visit was made at the request of the British Foreign Office as per note, dated the 24th July, enclosed in your letter of the 25th July, 1916.

J. C. GREW, Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim.

Enclosure 2 in No 15.

Dr. Webster and Mr. Ayrault to Mr. Grew.

October 18, 1916.

WE have the honour to submit to you herewith a report of a visit of inspection made by us on the 17th October to the camp for interned prisoners of war at Güstrow.

Previous Inspection.—This camp was visited by Mr. Jackson on the 10th April, 1915, and on the 20th January, 1916, and by Mr. Osborne on the 12th February, 1916.*

Number of Prisoners of War.—There are 49,000 prisoners on the books of this camp, most of whom are at working-camps in the surrounding country. At the time of inspection only 1,632 of the prisoners were in the parent camp. These included:—

311 French soldiers.

86 English

1,038 Russian

185 Belgian

- 1 Serbian soldier.
- 2 French civilians.
- 5 Russian
- 3 Belgian
- 1 Russian doctor.

There are thirty non-commissioned officers among the 86 English interned here, of whom 11 had been transferred from Osterade within the last two weeks. There is one officer detained here who had been promoted from the ranks just before being captured, but who desires to remain here in preference to being sent to a camp for officer

prisoners of war.

Description of Camp.—The camp is situated near a railroad, about 5 kilom. from Güstrow. It is composed of three divisions—two for prisoners and one for the German guard. The camp can accommodate 25,000 prisoners, but at the present time only five of the ten blocks in the central division are being utilised. There are ten barracks in each block. The entire camp is surrounded by a barbed-wire fence, and one block is divided from the other by a similar fence. The men have free access to all parts of the camp, and each prisoner is provided with a card giving his nationality,

his fitness for work, &c., which is to be shown on requisition by the German authorities.

There are trenches about the camp for the disposal of the surface drainage, and

concrete sewers provide a sufficient system for carrying off waste water, &c.

Barracks.—The barracks are well built with double walls, and are divided in two parts so that each room is about 50 feet by 35 feet, with a 12-foot wall and a 15-foot apex. Twelve windows provide sufficient light and ventilation. There are wooden bunks in sections of four, double tier, with thick straw mattresses in excellent condition, and each man has two blankets. There are two stoves in each room for heating and for the cooking of the contents of packages. There are about fifty men in each barrack. The sergeant-major occupies a room with four others. The remainder of the British non-commissioned officers share rooms with non-commissioned officers of other nationalities, but are not quartered with privates.

officers of other nationalities, but are not quartered with privates.

Latrines.—In separate buildings at a sufficient distance from the barrack are latrines for each block. Each building contains eighteen places with seats without covers, four of these being partitioned off at the sides. They are of the cistern system, and are cleaned out by pumping whenever necessary. Chloride of lime is used as a disinfectant every morning. The latrines are unobjectionable. Opposite the latrines are separate rooms for urinals, which are of the wall trench system, and are cleaned each day. The floors of the urinals on the afternoon of inspection were wet, but there was evidence of sufficient disinfectant having been used, and otherwise the urinals

were unobjectionable.

Baths.—At one side of the compound there is one building for bathing and for the disinfection of clothes. The men undress in one room and, after their clothes are numbered, pass to the showers, of which there are fifty-six supplied with hot water. After bathing, the men proceed to a dressing-room, where their clothes are returned to them after having been sterilized with steam under pressure in two autoclaves. Leather belts, shoes, and other articles which might be spoiled by heat are disinfected with powder. Baths are compulsory once every week, and no more frequent bathing is allowed.

Washing facilities.—The laundry is in a separate house near the baths. Here there are long troughs, which the men may use whenever they wish to wash their clothes. There are rooms for the drying of clothes, and in another room the mattresses are washed and renovated. In each block is a hand pump, where the men obtain water for the cooking of the contents of their packages, and for the washing of faces and hands. It was stated by the men that for this latter purpose in some cases there were only five basins for each barrack. When this was called to the notice of the commandant he stated that this matter would receive attention.

Kitchens.—At the present time only three kitchens are being used, and we visited two of these, which are similar in construction and arrangement. In one of these the staff is composed of twenty-seven prisoners, including five cooks. Three British are employed in this kitchen, and there are also three in the second kitchen visited. There are three large kettles and no ranges. The kitchen was found to be clean and orderly. We tasted the food for the midday meal, and found it to be quite palatable and nutritious. The men said that the pickled meat was often in poor condition, but the commandant of the camp stated that this meat always has a peculiar odour and taste, which might cause the prisoners to believe that it was spoiled. We were not able to sample the meat, as we inspected the camp on a "meatless day," but the commandant assured us that the meat was in good condition. The menu of the camp diet is appended to this report. The British usually take the coffee, and a small proportion of them take the midday meal in order to supplement the food from their packages. The bread is made at the camp bakery described in a previous report. The food is eaten in the barracks, where there are facilities for cooking food from packages.

Canteens.—There are two canteens, one of which was visited. A firm in Güstrow has the contract for stocking the canteens, but so much food has been received by the prisoners in packages that of late the canteens have been used but little by the British, and the supplies have dwindled in variety and amount. The only articles of food for sale in the canteen which we visited are onions, herrings, and cheese, for which a reasonable price is charged. Soft drinks are provided, and light wines may be bought every other day. We saw an extensive price-list which was amended to the 1st of September. The prices were reasonable, but the list failed to correspond to the articles contained in the canteen. On requesting the commandant that a greater variety of foodstuffs be for sale in the canteen he stated that it would be impossible to increase the supply.

Bazaar.—In one corner of the camp is a bazaar which is very well stocked with a variety of articles, including musical instruments, pipes, tooth-pastes, chains, tumblers, brushes, &c. The prices charged here are slightly above those in the town, and the proceeds go to the benefit of the camp.

Packages.—The men stated that the packages arrive regularly and in reasonable There are two British represented on the staff in the parcel room. The organisation seems to be excellent, and 60,000 packages a month are censored and

disposed of here.

Mail.—The mail was stated to arrive regularly and in good time. There are eight British represented on the staff. 2,500,000 letters passed through this post office for

censorship and distribution during the last year.

"Liebesgaben."—The sergeant-major with four other British are in charge of the distribution of the "Liebesgaben." The distribution is apparently executed in an efficient manner.

Exercise.—There is a football field where we saw several prisoners playing, and others were kicking a football between the barracks. The men requested that one

football and several boxing-gloves be sent them.

Recreation — Formerly the camp supported an excellent band and orchestra, and there was a theatre in a separate barrack, but so many of the musicians and actors have been sent out to working camps that this means of recreation has now been stopped and the theatre has been converted into a café. We saw several prisoners at work on a very artistic monument which is to be placed in the camp graveyard. Under the charge of the sergeant-major is a library containing over 1,000 books in English. Many of these books are sent to several of the working camps dependent on the Güstrow parent camp.

Religious Services.—Three barracks are set apart for religious services for Catholics, Russians, and Jews. We inspected the first two and found that they had been prettily decorated by the prisoners. The English use the Catholic Church on Sunday evenings when a sergeant reads the service. The Reverend Mr. Williams has visited this camp

on several occasions.

Medical Attention.—The lazaret is at one side of the camp and consists of six barracks, each about 80 feet long, 35 feet wide, with a wall height of 12 feet, and an apex height of 16 feet. There are sixteen windows with transoms which provide sufficient light and ventilation. There are two stoves in each barrack for heating.

215 Russians, 23 French, 11 Belgians, 1 Serbian, and 6 British were in the lazaret

on the day of inspection. We spoke individually to the following British:-

1. A private in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who is detained here with chronic catarrh of the stomach.

2. A private in the 1st Battalion Queen's Regiment, who is mentally unbalanced. 3. A private in the Duke of Wellington Regiment, who had been at Fürstenberg for six weeks, and in this hospital for three months with rheumatism of the spine.

4. A rifleman in the King's Royal Rifles, who had received a head wound, and

evidently has an osteomyelitis with the formation of sequestra.

5. A private in the 1st Royal Lancaster Regiment, who has a chronic skin disease

of the face.

6. A private in the Royal Scottish Fusiliers, who has catarrh. This had been giving him trouble before the war. It is expected that the Swiss Medical Commission will visit Güstrow shortly, and it was suggested to the commandant that Nos. 2 and 4 be recommended to the Commission for exchange or transference to Switzerland.

The kitchen of the lazaret contains four kettles and one large stove. A menu of the food for the lazaret is appended to this report. It was stated by the Germans in

charge of the lazaret that the men under their care receive more food than do the German soldiers. The men may use their packages if their condition permits.

*Infirmary.—One barrack similar to those in the lazaret is used as an infirmary.

There are twenty-two beds all of which were being used at the time of inspection. We spoke to the four British who were detained there, and none of them had any complaints to make except a petty officer of the Flying Corps of the Royal Navy. Two years previously he had fallen from an aeroplane and received internal injuries, since when he has had intestinal hæmorrhages, although he did not appear to have any extensive anæmia. He wished to go to Rostock to be examined and treated by a specialist, and when this was suggested to the commandant it was stated that arrangements for this examination would be made.

Work.—Only the sergeant-majors and corporals of horse are exempt from the fatigue work about the camp. The hours of work are from 6.30 A.M. to 11.30 A.M., and from 1.30 P.M. to 5 P.M. The work consists of cleaning the camp, digging trenches for drainage and the disposal of refuse, and performing other duties for the upkeep of

the camp.

Prison and Punishment Barracks.—In a separate building there is a prison with nineteen cells. We were told that there were no British undergoing punishment here. We examined one of these cells and found it to be about 5 feet by 6 feet with a height of about 11 feet. There is a small window and a ventilator. Each cell is provided with a bunk; mattresses are not permitted, except on every fourth day, but the prisoner may have his blankets and overcoat. The diet consists of bread and water, and every fourth day the prisoner is given the regular camp food—the use of packages not being permitted. When a man has done something for which he may be punished, he is, in accordance with the seriousness of the crime, either allowed his freedom until his case is settled, or is detained in a barrack with the usual privileges of camp food, packages, and bedding. The merits of the case are judged at the camp, and the sentence is decided at the Kommandantur at Güstrow.

Clothes.—The men were lined up for inspection and they stated that they had sufficient clothes, underclothes, and shoes. Their appearance corroborated this

statement.

Complaints.—The men stated that there was no British interpreter at the camp and that they were obliged to depend on interpreters of other nationalities. We spoke to the commandant in regard to this, and he stated that he would make an effort to have a British interpreter from one of the working camps transferred to this camp.

The sergeants and non-commissioned officers of lower rank complained of having to do fatigue work in the camp. The commandant said in regard to this that his

orders were that these men should be made to do their share of camp work.

A corporal in the South Wales Borderers, stated that he had lost his left eye and had been sent to Rostock to obtain an artificial eye, but that he had been obliged to pay 6 M. for it. The commandant stated that he should not be made to pay this and that the money would be refunded.

A private in the 3rd King's Own Hussars, stated that he had a crushed hip and was placed in class 3, which would make him eligible for light work. He said that he was unable to perform the work demanded and that he wished to be exchanged. It

was suggested that he be examined by the Swiss Medical Commission.

One of the prisoners stated that while he was at Osterade he had sent a letter to the American Embassy in Berlin requesting a visit of inspection. There is, up to the

present time, no record of the arrival of this letter at this Embassy.

Comments.—The treatment of the men and the conditions found in this camp appeared to be very favourable. The commandant stated that the British were the most satisfactory prisoners under his care, and that in very few cases had he been obliged to punish them. He reported, however, that since the arrival of the men from Osterade the spirit of the British had not been so good as formerly.

Our visit was not previously announced, and we were permitted to talk with the

men without ear or eye witnesses.

We have, &c.

JEROME PIERCE WEBSTER.

GUY AYRAULT.

Enclosure 3 in No. 15.

Commandant of Prisoners' Camp at Güstrow to Dr. Webster.

(Translation.) Sir,

ENCLOSED I beg to hand you the desired diet sheets of the Güstrow prison camp and of its hospitals.

With reference to our conversation at the time of your visit of inspection on the 17th instant, I beg to submit the following remarks:—

1. The charges for procuring an artificial eye will be refunded to the prisoner of war mentioned.

2. The petty officer who is alleged to suffer from intestinal hemorrhages will,

if his condition requires it, be sent to a specialist at Rostock for examination and

3. An interpreter has been secured in the person of one of the sergeants.

4. The number of wash basins prescribed by the War Ministry was at hand. The deficiency apparent in the barracks of the English was caused by the fact that the prisoners themselves had misplaced many of these bowls. This has been remedied.

5. The prisoner of war in the 3rd King's Own Hussar Regiment, O.W.N., is only

a private, and now himself admitted that he is not a corporal and that his statement

to this effect was unfounded.

Margarine. Potato flour.

Margarine.

VON MATHESON.

Enclosure 4 in No. 15.

MENU.

CAMP for Prisoners of War at Güstrow from October 1 to 15, 1916.

Sunday, October 1, 1916.

Fresh beef. Barley. Cocoa. Dried fruit. Potatoes. Milk powder Turnips. Starch flour. Sugar. Dried vegetable. Sugar. Potherbs. Soya flour.

Monday, October 2, 1916.

Potatoes. Coffee. Soup bones. Cabbage. Potatoes. Chicory. Potato flour. • Potherbs. Skimmed milk. Soya flour. Sugar. Soup. Soup. Liebig extract.

Tuesday, October 3, 1916.

Fish roe. Farina. Tea. Cod-fish. Dried fruit. Sugar. Potatoes. Sugar. Onions.

Wednesday, October 4, 1916.

Sausage ("Blutwurst"). Corn flour Boiled potatoes. Potatoes. Herrings. Skimmed milk powder. Cabbage. Tea. Sugar. Potato flour. Sugar. Soya oil.

Thursday, October 5, 1916.

Pickled beef. Buckwheat. Cocoa. Skimmed milk powder Potatoes. Potato flour. Turnips. Skimmed milk powder. Sugar. Soya oil. Soup. Dried vegetable.

Friday, October 6, 1916

Barley. Cocoa. Fish. Dried fruit. Milk powder. Fish roe. l'otato flour. Sugar. Potatoes. Sugar. Onions. Potato flour.

Saturday, October 7, 1916.

Soya oil.
Potatoes.
Turnips.
Peas.
Soya flour.

Buckwheat.
Potato flour.
Milk powder.
Soya oil.
Cheese.

Tea. Sugar.

Sunday, October 8, 1916.

Pickled meat Potatoes. Potherbs. Dried vegetable. Soya flour.

Barley.
Dried fruit.
Milk powder.
Soya oil.

Tea. Sugar.

Monday, October 9, 1916.

Cabbage.
Potatoes.
Starch flour.
Liebig extract.
Soya Flour.

Turnips.
Liebig extract.
Soya oil.
Barley.
Starch flour.

Coffee.
Surrogate.
Sugar.
Milk powder.

Tuesday, October 10, 1916.

Fish and fish roe. Potatoes. Barley. Onions. Margarine.

Farina.
Dried fruit.
Sugar.

Coffee.
Milk powder.

Wednesday, October 11, 1916.

Sausage ("Blutwurst"). Potatoes. Cabbage. Soup. Soya oil. Potatoes.
Turnips.
Starch flour.
Soya oil.

Corn flour. Milk powder. Sugar.

Thursday, October 12, 1916.

Pickled beef.
Potatoes.
Turnips.
Soya flour.
Peas.
Soup.

Farina.
Marmalade.
Potato Starch.

Tea. Sugar.

Friday, October 13, 1916.

Cod fish.
Fish roe.
Potatoes.
Onions.
Potato Starch.
Soya meal.
Barley.

Barley.
Dried fruit.
Corn flour.
Sugar.

Cocoa. Milk powder. Sugar.

Saturday, October 14, 1916.

Potatoes. Cabbage. Soya flour. Soya oil. Buckwheat.
Potato flour.
Sugar.

Coffee. Surrogate. Milk powder.

Sunday, October 15, 1916.

Beef.
Potatoes.
Cabbage.
Starch flour.
Soya flour.

Turnips.
Liebig extract
Barley.
Bouillon.
Soya flour.

Coffee. Surrogate. Milk powder.

Güstrow, October 19, 1916.

Enclosure 5 in No. 15.

MENU for September 4 to 10, 1916, of the Barrack Lazaret of the Camp for

			Con	mposition	in Per Ce	ent.	1 2 1 24 7	Total Co	mposition	PARTE	
Quantity of Foo	odstuff p	er .	-8	Poolo							
Prisoner pe	r Day.		Albumen.	Fat.	Carbo- hydrate.	Calories.	Albumen.	Fat.	Carbo- hydrate.	Calories	
			Ι	Monday	, Septem	ber 4.					
Bread Marmalade Buckwheat Fat Beef Turnips Potatoes Farina Fat		Gr. 300 125 90 10 100 500 400 60 10	4·1 ··· 13·5 0·5 19·4 0·7 1·5 6·6 0.5	0·5 6·0 84·4 7·1 0·2 0·2 0·6 84·4	48·3 75·0 67·5 0·5 5·5 20·0 74·1 0·5	217·7 277·5 315·7 787·3 159·8 27·2 89·0 334·4 787·3	12·3 ·· 12·15 0·05 19·4 3·5 6·0 3·06 0·05	1·5 ·· 5·4 18·44 7·1 1·0 0·8 0·36 8·44	144·9 93·75 60·75 0·05 27·5 80·0 44·45 0·05	653 · 9 346 · 87 284 · 13 78 · 73 159 · 8 136 · 0 356 · 0 200 · 64 78 · 73	
Total							57.41	33.04	451.46	2,294.00	
Bread	160	Gr. 300	4.1	uesday	, Septem	ber 5.	12.8	1.5	144.9	653.1	
Marmalade Buckwheat Fat Mished fruit Sugar Barley Farina Fat		125 90 10 90 20 120 60 10	13·5 0·5 1·6 ·· 7·6 6·4 0·5	6·0 84·4 0·7 0·7 0·5 84·4	75·0 67·5 0·5 52·8 99·0 73·8 77·0 0·5	277·5 315·7 787·3 225·4 398·4 338·5 343·6 787·3	12·15 0·05 1·44 9·12 3·84 0·05	5·4 8·44 0·63 0·84 0·3 8·44	93·75 60·75 0·05 47·52 59·4 88·56 46·2 0·05	346 · 87 284 · 13 78 · 73 202 · 86 239 · 04 406 · 20 206 · 16 78 · 73	
Total		1.0	••			****	38.95	25.55	541.18	2,495 · 82	
			W	ednesda	ıy, Septe	mber 6.					
Bread		Gr. 300	4.1	0.5	48·3 75·0	217.7	12.3	1.5	144·9 93·75	653 ·1 346 · 87	

Bread Marmalade Buckwheat Fat Beef Turnips Potatoes Farina Fat Total	Gr. 300 . 125 . 90 . 10 . 100 . 500 . 350 . 60 . 10		0·5 6·0 84·4 7·1 0·2 0·2 0·6 84·4	48·3 75·0 67·5 0·5 5·5 20·0 74·1 0·5	217·7 277·5 315·7 787·3 159·8 27·2 89·0 334·4 787·3	12·3 12·15 0·05 19·4 3·5 5·25 3·96 0·05 56·66	1·5 ·· 5·4 8·44 7·1 1·0 0·7 0·36 8·44	144·9 93·75 60·75 0·05 27·5 70·0 44·46 0·05	653 ·1 346·87 284·13 78·73 159·8 136·0 311·50 200·64 78·73 2,249·50
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		mposition	in Per Ce	nt.		Total Co	mposition	
Quantity of Foodstuff per Prisoner per Day.	Albumen.	Fat.	Carbo- hydrate.	Calories.	Albumen.	Fat.	Carbo- hydrate.	Calories.
	T	hursda	y, Septe	mber 7.	0101.73		od ago	Sr. J.
Bread Marmalade Buckwheat Fat Pork Cauliflower	Gr. 300 4·1 1.25 90 13·5 100 14·1 1.3 350 1·5 60 6·4 10 0·5	0.5 6.0 84.4 35.1 0.2 0.2 0.5 84.4	48·3 75·0 67·5 0·5 4·2 20·0 77·0 0·5	217·7 277·5 315·7 787·3 393·7 24·9 89·0 343·6 787·3	12·3 12·15 0·05 14·1 6·5 5·25 3·84 0·05	1.5 5.4 8.44 35.1 1.0 0.7 0.3 8.44	144·9 93·75 60·75 0·05 21·0 70·0 46·2 0·05 436·70	653·1 346·87 · 284·18 · 78·78 393·7 124·5 311·50 206·16 78·73 2,477·42
		Friday	, Septem	ber 8.				
Marmalade Buckwheat Fat Mished fruit Sugar	Gr. 300 4·1 125 90 13·5 10 0·5 90 1·6 20 120 60 6·6 10 0·5	0·5 6·0 84·4 0·7 0·8 0·6 84·4	48·3 75·0 67·5 0·5 52·8 99·0 73·3 74·1 0·5	217·7 277·5 315·7 787·3 225·4 398·4 334·1 334·4 787·3	12·3 ·· 12·15 0·05 1·44 ·· 10·80 3·96 0·05 40·75	1·5 5·4 8·44 0·63 0·96 0·36 8·44 25·73	144·9 93·75 60·75 0·05 47·52 19·80 87·96 44·46 0·05	653·1 346·87 284·13 78·73 202·86 79·68 400·92 200·64 78·73 2,325·66
	S	aturday	y, Septen	nber 9.				
Bread Marmalade Buckwheat Fat Beef Carrots	Gr. 300 4·1 1. 90 13·5 10 0·5 100 0·7 350 1·5 60 6·6 10 0·5	0·5 6·0 84·4 7·1 0·2 0·2 0·6 84·4	48·3 75·0 67·5 0·5 5·5 20·0 74·1 0·5	217·7 277·5 315·7 787·3 159·8 27·2 89·0 334·4 787·3	12·3 ·· 12·15 0·05 19·4 3·5 5·25 3·96 0·05 56·66	1·5 5·4 8·44 7·1 1·0 0·7 0·36 8·44	-144·9 93·75 60·75 0·05 27·5 70·0 44·46 0·05 441·46	653·1 346·87 284·13 78·73 159·8 136·0 311·50 200·64 78·73
	S	Sunday,	Septemb	ber 10.				
Buckwheat Marmalade Sugar Veal Turnips	Gr. 300 4·1 90 13·5 125 20 100 19·6 500 0·7 350 1·5 60 6·6	0·5 6·0 1·7 0·2 0·2 0·6	48·3 67·5 75·0 99·0 5·5 20·0 74·1	217·7 315·7 277·5 398·4 110·6 27·2 89·0 334·4	12·3 12·15 19·6 3·5 5·25 3·96	1.5 5.4 1.7 1.0 0.7 0.36	144·9 60·75 93·75 19·80 27·50 70·0 44·46	653·1 284·13 346·87 79·68 110·6 136·0 311·50 200·64

SUMMARY.

			Total Composition.									
	4		Albumen.	Fat.	Carbo- hydrate.	Calories.						
Monday			57.41	33.04	451.46	2.294.00						
Tuesday			38.95	25.55	541.18	2,495.82						
Wednesday			56.66	32.94	441.46	2,249 · 50						
Thursday			54.24	68.88	436.70	2,477 · 42						
Friday			40.75	25.73	499.24	2,325.66						
Saturday	13		56.66	32.94	441.46	2,249.50						
Sunday			56.81	11.10	461.21	2,201.25						
Total			361.48	230 · 18	3,272 · 71	16,293 · 15						
Average per day			51.64	32.88	467 · 53	2,327 · 57						

In addition, one beverage was allotted to each prisoner, so that an average of about 2,600 calories can be estimated.

The Head Doctor: MEYER, Army Physician.

No. 16.

Viscount Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Page's note of the 30th ultimo, forwarding copies of a report by Mr. Jackson on his visit of inspection of the British prisoners of war at Libau.

Viscount Grey would be much obliged if the thanks of His Majesty's Government could be conveyed to Mr. Jackson for his trouble in compiling this report, which has

been read with much interest.

Foreign Office, November 6, 1916.

No. 17.

Viscount Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and, with reference to his Excellency's note of the 6th November, has the honour to request that the thanks of His Majesty's Government may be conveyed to Dr. J. P. Webster and Mr. Guy Ayrault for their report on their visit to the prisoners of war camp at Güstrow.

Foreign Office, November 15, 1916.

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